



BAY AREA DRUM SITE

1212 Thomas Avenue • San Francisco, California

Fact Sheet #7

January 2000

INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Protection Agency, *Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)* is distributing this fact sheet to provide information to the community about the results of the Remedial Investigation and Risk Assessment at the Bay Area Drum Site (Site) and to announce a community meeting.

DTSC is the lead agency overseeing the investigation and future environmental cleanup activities at the Site, which is located at 1212 Thomas Avenue in San Francisco, California.

This fact sheet provides information about recent Site activities, future actions planned and opportunities for public input. Technical terms used in this fact sheet are shown in italics the first time they are used. Refer to the glossary on page 3 for definitions of these terms.

DTSC invites the community to attend a community meeting to be held on Thursday, January 20, 2000 (see box for information).

COMMUNITY MEETING

DTSC will hold a meeting to present Information to the public regarding recent activities at the Site and to listen to community questions and concerns:

OPEN HOUSE: 6:30-7:00 p.m.

MEETING: 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 20, 2000

**Bayview Opera House
4705 3rd Street, S.F.**

The meeting will begin with brief presentations to be followed by a question and answer session.

DTSC encourages opportunities for public involvement and invites all interested parties to attend.

BACKGROUND

The Bay Area Drum Site was used as a drum reconditioning facility from the mid-1940s until 1987. A variety of chemicals, including oils, solvents, paints and asphalt products, were contained in the used drums that were sent to the Site for reconditioning. Bay Area Drum cleaned, reconditioned, repainted and sold the used drums to other firms. During the years of operation, however, hazardous wastes that were contained in the drums leaked into the soil and groundwater. DTSC conducted an Expedited Response Action at the Site in 1987-1988 which included the removal and proper disposal of contaminated soil and stored waste materials from the drum yard and adjacent properties, as well as the capping and fencing of the drum yard.

After the Expedited Response Action was completed, DTSC continued to sample soil and groundwater at the Site. DTSC has overseen the ongoing investigation at the Site and has now completed the Risk Assessment and Remedial Investigation.

In 1996, a group of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) entered into a Consent Order with DTSC. Through this order, the PRPs agreed to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Risk Assessment for the Site and to draft a Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan.

Between 1996 and 1999, additional Remedial Investigation activities, including soil and groundwater testing, were initiated to characterize environmental conditions at the Site and in the surrounding area. The results of this additional Remedial Investigation are summarized in the Remedial Investigation Report.

Details regarding the Remedial Investigation and Risk Assessment are presented in two new documents—the Remedial Investigation Report and the Supplemental Risk Assessment. Copies of these documents and other site related information are located in the Information Repositories listed on the back page of this fact sheet.

SITE CLEANUP PROCESS

Figure 1 illustrates the steps in the site cleanup process. Public participation is an integral part of this process. DTSC involves the public by providing information about site activities, responding to inquiries, holding public meetings and encouraging public input on cleanup decisions. Figure 1 shows where the Bay Area Drum Site is in the site cleanup process to date.

DTSC is distributing this fact sheet and holding a community meeting prior to finalizing the Remedial Investigation and Supplemental Risk Assessment documents, to keep the public informed and provide an opportunity for the public to be involved and for DTSC to hear community concerns and questions.

SAMPLING RESULTS

The results of the soil analyses found *Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)*, *lead*, *pesticides* and *polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)* in subsurface soil at the Site, including soil below the building, capped yard and vacant lot. To prevent potential exposure to these soils, fencing and locked entries control access to the Site. The capping which was completed in 1988 also prevents exposure.

The results of the groundwater analyses found VOCs and petroleum hydrocarbons consistently above screening values in groundwater at the Site and immediately

downgradient of the Site (to the southwest, as shown on Figure 2). Groundwater in the Site vicinity is not used for drinking water. Groundwater further away from the Site does not appear to be impacted by compounds from the Site. These results are described in further detail in the Remedial Investigation Report.

SUPPLEMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

A Baseline Risk Assessment was performed in 1996. After the Baseline Risk Assessment was completed, additional soil and groundwater data were collected and were incorporated into a Supplemental Risk Assessment to help evaluate Site cleanup options.

Using guidelines established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and DTSC, these risk assessments estimated the potential exposure and public health risks associated with the current site conditions, as well as with hypothetical future uses of the Site. The Supplemental Risk Assessment evaluated soil under and around the Building, capped yard, and in the vacant lot, as well as groundwater.

At present, the Site is used for commercial (mainly storage) purposes. The Supplemental Risk Assessment shows that chemicals found in the soil are at levels that are safe for this current use.

Potential residential and worker exposure scenarios were also evaluated to estimate

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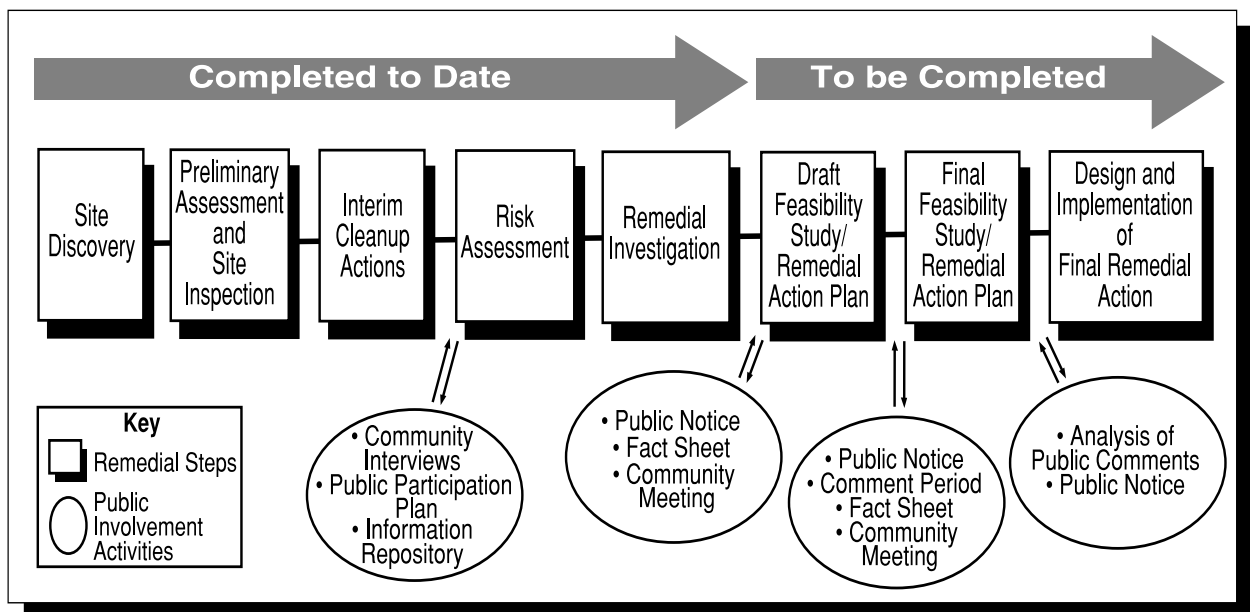


Figure 1— Site Cleanup Process and Progress Made at Bay Area Drum Site

potential cancer risks and noncancer hazards for chemicals found in soil and groundwater at the Site. The results showed that lead, PCBs, pesticides and VOCs in soil exceed the levels considered to be safe or protective of human health for future residents or workers. (Pesticides and VOCs are only found in some parts of the Site).

Chemical levels detected in groundwater exceed levels that are protective of human health if the water were to be used for drinking and bathing or showering. However, groundwater is not used for such purposes at the Site or in the neighborhood around the Site. (The water used in this neighborhood is supplied by the San Francisco Water Department and comes from the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in the Sierra Nevada mountains).

In the near future, DTSC will be evaluating cleanup options for the Site. (See back page for description of Future Site Activities).

TECHNICAL TERMS

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) — a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency charged with the responsibility for overseeing the investigation and clean-up of hazardous waste sites. DTSC was formerly the California Department of Health Services, Toxic Substances Control Division.

Downgradient — the direction in which groundwater flows.

Feasibility Study/ Remedial Action Plan

(FS/RAP) — a report that evaluates alternatives for remediating any identified soil or groundwater problems at a site and outlines a specific program leading to the remediation of a contaminated site. Once the Draft FS/RAP is prepared, a public meeting is held and comments from the public are solicited. After the public comment period has ended and public comments have been responded to in writing, DTSC approves the final remedy for the site.

Lead — a dull gray metal that is present almost everywhere in the environment. Exposure to lead can cause damage to the nervous system, bone marrow, or developing fetus. Children are especially sensitive to lead exposure.

Pesticides — general term for insecticides, herbicides and fungicides--substances used to control any plant or animal pests. Pesticides can accumulate in the food chain and contaminate the environment.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) — a group of toxic chemicals used for a variety of purposes including electrical applications, carbonless copy paper, adhesives, hydraulic fluids, microscope immersion oils and caulking compounds. PCBs do not break down easily and are listed as cancer-causing agents under Proposition 65.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) — A group of chemicals including solvents that readily evaporate at temperatures normally found at ground surface and at shallow depths.

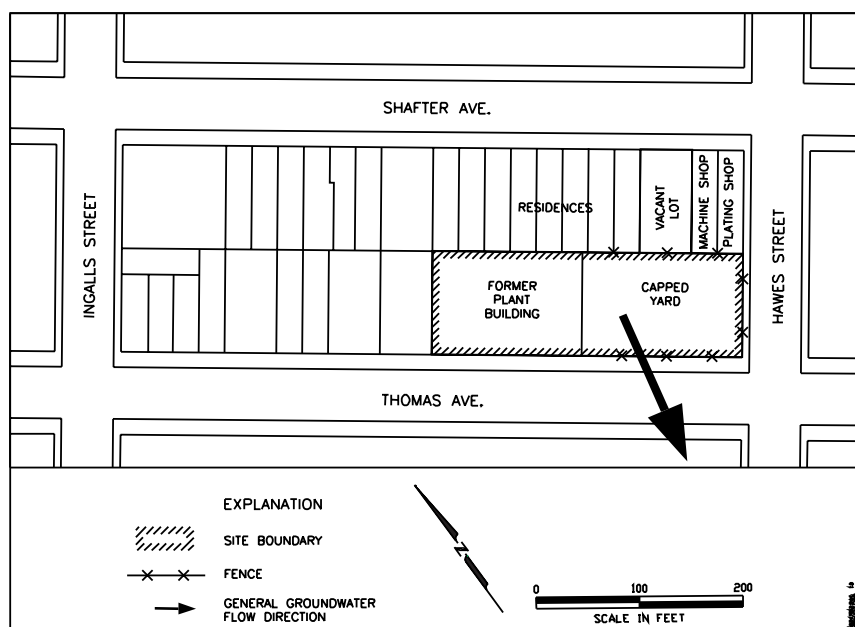


Figure 2 — Site Diagram

FUTURE SITE ACTIVITIES

After the Remedial Investigation Report and Supplemental Risk Assessment are finalized, a document called the *Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan* (FS/RAP) will be completed for the Bay Area Drum Site. The FS/RAP will identify and evaluate a number of Site cleanup options, and will recommend one option as the one considered most appropriate for cleaning up the Site.

When the Draft FS/RAP is completed, DTSC will announce a 30-day comment period to receive public input, distribute a fact sheet, publish a notice, and hold a public meeting. Once the final remedy is approved, plans for implementing the cleanup alternative selected for the Site will begin.

Puede obtener una copia en Español de éste folleto en la biblioteca localizada en 5075 Calle 3 en San Francisco. Si desea hablar en Español con alguien acerca de la información mencionada en este folleto, puede llamar a:
Jacinto Soto, DTSC
(510) 540-3842

Attn: Rachelle Maricq
California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The documents pertaining to the Bay Area Drum Site are available for public review at the following locations. The full administrative record is available at the DTSC location.

SF Public Library, Anna E. Waden Branch
5075 Third Street, San Francisco
(415) 715-4100

DTSC File Room, 2nd floor
700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley
(510) 540-3800 (call for appointment)

If you have any questions regarding this project, please call Bill Brown, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3841 or Rachelle Maricq, DTSC Public Participation Coordinator, at (510) 540-3910.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service.

Call 1-888-877-5378

to contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control.

INSIDE:

**Information About
the Bay Area Drum
State Superfund Site**



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